

with young children, many of whom receive the earned income tax credit, something that has been vital to thousands of families in my district, and to realize that, when I came back after this work recess, that I would be facing the Republicans slowing down or eliminating the earned income tax refund to working families. In fact, one of their very own said, "I have a real problem with delaying payments to poor people."

Mr. Speaker, this is an outrage. This is something that should not happen.

CBO SAYS SPENDING PLAN WILL NOT USE SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUS

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I am going to depart from my prepared remarks to try and set the record straight. We had a number of representatives from the other side of the aisle who have gotten up to say that our Republican spending plan would spend Social Security money. They have even shown newspaper articles to bolster their contention. The newspaper articles are wrong. They are wrong.

Let me read again from a letter from the Congressional Budget Office dated September 30, that is today, to the Speaker.

"Dear Mr. Speaker: You requested that we estimate the impact on the fiscal year 2000 Social Security surplus using CBO's economic and technical assumptions based on a plan whereby net discretionary outlays for fiscal year 2000 will equal \$592.1 billion." That is the Republican spending plan. "CBO estimates that this spending plan will not use any of the projected Social Security surplus in the year 2000."

Being a teacher, I know that repetition is the soul of learning, so let me say it again to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle: "CBO estimates that this spending plan will not use any of the projected Social Security surplus in the fiscal year 2000." Do my colleagues get it?

MEANING OF MINIMUM WAGE STATE FLEXIBILITY

(Mr. DEMINT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, let us talk about the meaning of minimum wage State flexibility.

State flexibility means admitting that we in Washington do not always know what is best. It means trusting our local leaders to govern their own citizens and protect their own workers.

State flexibility means giving our local leaders the freedom to make wage policies that are specifically tailored to help those individuals find jobs who are still struggling on welfare.

State flexibility means giving our State officials the tools they need to meet their welfare-to-work goals so they can continue to receive Federal funds that help them train the most disadvantaged citizens in our community.

State flexibility means creating laws that protect the wages of a waiter in Hollywood, California, and also create new employment opportunities for a cashier in Union, South Carolina.

I urge my colleagues to support State flexibility so that we can continue to secure the future for all Americans by returning dollars, decisions, and freedoms back home.

REMEMBER THE FACTS

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, it was with great interest that I listened to the wailing and gnashing of teeth from my friends on the left this morning.

I thought it might be important to offer a few historical notes to put this House in perspective and to help the American people in the process.

Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons I left private life to run for public office is because a previous liberal majority in this House, with the complicity of the President of the United States, raided 100 percent of the Social Security surplus for the upcoming fiscal year, even as they gave us the largest tax increase in American history and drove us still further into debt.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I welcome this new-found accountability for fiscal responsibility; and to that extent, I welcome my friends from the left.

But when it comes to false letters based on false assumptions sent to produce false newspaper articles, there I must draw the line, Mr. Speaker, because the left has told us what? Medicare was going to go away. School lunches were going to go away. None of that happened. Remember the facts.

STOP THE RAID ON SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, stop the raid. Stop the raid on Social Security. That is our simple message, and that is what Republicans are now fighting with Democrats over as we finalize our work on the national budget.

Since 1967, Democrats have been using the Social Security Trust Fund as a slush fund, but now Republicans want to put an end to this bizarre practice. Many seniors I talk to in my congressional district tell me that the Federal Government has been doing this for all these years, and it is wrong.

Why has it been done? It has been done simply because liberal Demo-

cratic politicians in Washington were able to get away with it. For 40 years, Democrats controlled this body, and they never put one thin dime of the Social Security Trust Fund aside.

Republicans now, with a slim majority, have been able to convince the President of the United States of the virtue and the goodness of the Social Security lockbox provisions which will put an end to this raid on the Social Security Trust Fund. Let us stop the raid. Let us pass our Republican budget.

END SLAVERY IN SUDAN

(Mr. ROYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, the reprehensible practice of slavery in Sudan entered American homes on Sunday evening. Touched By An Angel, a television series, performed an important service by broadcasting the ugly reality of slavery in that country to millions of Americans.

Slavery is just one ugly aspect of the rule of Sudan's National Islamic Front Regime, which overthrew a democratically elected government. This regime has given support to international terrorists like Osama Bin Laden, who masterminded the cowardly bombing of our embassies in Tanzania and Kenya. The countries bordering Sudan are also under attack from Sudan-supported terrorists.

Many of my colleagues have committed themselves to spotlighting slavery and religious persecution in Sudan. This Congress has passed a resolution condemning the genocide in Sudan. We need to do more. It is important that the U.S. and its allies keep up the pressure on this repressive and dangerous regime.

REAPPOINTMENT AS MEMBER TO SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). Without objection, and pursuant to section 703 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 903) as amended by section 103 of Public Law 103-296, and upon the recommendation of the Minority Leader, the Chair announces the Speaker's reappointment on the following Member on the part of the House to the Social Security Advisory Board for a 6-year term:

Ms. Martha Keys of Virginia.

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2910, NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1999

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 312 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows: